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Illumination For Health Care Facilities

In its October/November 1984 Newsletter, the Division of Health Facility Licensing and Certification, Bureau of Health Facilities, Michigan Department of Public Health published lighting standards for Health Care Facilities with the accompanying text.

"Attached to this newsletter are MDCH standards for illumination levels for all health care facilities. The division will be using these standards during the survey process."

Since that time these illumination Standards have been used by the Department as both a minimum requirement for construction, and as a minimum requirement for licensure. With the development of the Minimum Design Standards for Health Care Facilities in Michigan, published in 1998, these standards were updated to incorporate requirements for new services, which did not exist in 1984. These Illumination Standards will be used for design review, opening surveys, and all licensure related surveys of Health Care Facilities.

The Illumination Standards were developed by the staff of the Department of Public Health from the 1981 and 1995 versions of the "Lighting for Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities" published by the Illumination Engineering Society of North America. The values, which were determined from a range of illuminances, were based on several factors. The factors include the occupants' ages, surface reflectance, and the importance for accuracy in the task area. The selected illuminance values are intended to be the minimum value at a location.

AREA / ACTIVITY	ILLUMINANCE (Foot-candles)
Autopsy and Morgue	
Autopsy, general	75
Autopsy Table - unless supplemented by a variable light fixture	Task lighting as required
Morgue, general	30
Central Sterile Supply	
Work areas	50
Processed storage	30
Charting	50
Corridors	
Day	20
Night	10
Critical Care Areas (PICU, NICU, ICU)	
General (entire room)	20
Examination (local) Fixed	150
Day Room/Dining Room	30
Dialysis Unit	
General	30
Reprocessing	75
Dialysate room	30
Dietary	
General	30
Dish Washing	50
Tray Assembly	50

Food Storage	20
Emergency Department	
General	50
Examination/Treatment (fixed)	150
Examination & Treatment Rooms	
General	50
Exam/Treatment	150 (may be portable)
Hand Wash Locations	30
Janitor Closet	20
Laboratories	
General - additional task lighting as required.	50
Laundry	
Preparation and Tubs	30
Washer and Dryer	30
Linens	
Sorting soiled linen	30
Central (clean) linen room	30
Sewing room, general	30
Sewing room, work area	75
Locker Rooms	20
Maintenance Department	30
Nurseries	
General	20
Exam/treatment	150 (may be portable)
Nursing Stations	
General	30

Desk	50
Medication Station	75
Nourishment Room	30
Obstetric Delivery Suite	
Scrub, general	75
General	150
Delivery Table	Task lighting as required
Postdelivery recovery area	75
Substerilizing room	30
Occupational Therapy	
Work Area, general	30
Work tables or benches	75
Patient Holding Areas	75
Patient's/Resident Rooms	
General (entire room)	20
Observation-night lighting	3
Critical examination	75 (may be portable)
Reading location (reading lamp or overbed fixture)	30
LDR/LDRP	Task lighting as required
Pharmacy	
General (entire room)	75
Physical Therapy Departments	30
Imaging Suite	
Diagnostic Section	
General	20
Film sorting	20
Radiation Therapy Section	

General	20
Hot Lab.	75
Stairways	20
Storage Rooms	20
Surgical Suite/Angiography/Cardiac Cath.	
Operating room, general	150
Operating table	Task lighting as required
Scrub general	75
Instruments and sterile supply room	30
Clean up room, instruments	50
Anesthesia storage	30
Substerile room	30
Toilets/Bathing	
General (Includes water closets, shower/tub)	30
Night Lighting	3
Utility Room (clean and soiled)	
General	30
Work Counter	50